

Today's News - Friday, October 23, 2009

- Has the Stirling Prize lost its sparkle after 14 years? Yes, says Merrick; no says Pearman.
- de Portzamparc's massive Riverside South in Manhattan: "Trump it's not" (though not all agree).
- Miami's proposed zoning code hopes to replace the current code's auto-centric emphasis with "walkability, greening and neighborhood cohesion" (and fewer McMansions, perhaps?).
- Saffron cheers a Philadelphia school's new Sustainable Urban Science Center; its biggest lesson: "if you really want to foster a healthier planet, buildings have to be urban as well as green."
- ASLA offers a very handy guide to federal economic stimulus opportunities that design professionals may find beneficial.
- David vs. Goliath in the Middle East: just who are the "little guys" who "go unnoticed until they sneak up and snatch a lucrative contract from the big boys"?
- Prince-Ramus talks about his Wyly adventures.
- Bulgaria puts the spotlight on its cities future during Sofia Architecture Week: are they "doomed to forever resemble concrete jungles"?
- Call for entries for three project types.
- Weekend diversions:
- In NYC, "Toward the Sentient City" at the Architectural League explores how our lives might change when we can embed computers in anything and everything (better to know the downside now than after the fact); and the Cooper-Hewitt showcases the last 10 years of the museum's Design Awards winners.
- A Boston showcase at Pinkcomma gallery for modern, affordable home designs by 24 firms from around the world in "Welcome Hometta."
- Chipperfield is feeling very chirpy these days with the opening of the Neues Museum in Berlin ("I don't imagine I'll do anything as important or as significant as that again"); re: the prince's carbuncle kafuffle: he "doesn't mind his profession being 'kicked up the' backside when the quality of modern architecture is poor."
- His "Form Matters" at the Design Museum, London is "a cerebral blockbuster" of "architecture with texture and sobriety, instead of structural gymnastics."
- In Chicago, the Graham Foundation's "Actions: What You Can Do with the City" puts urban residents on notice; and "Learning Modern" at the Art Institute of Chicago gives the Bauhaus credit where credit is due.
- In D.C., "House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" celebrates "stunning examples of man-and-machine triumph that incorporate both function and aesthetics" (great pix, too).
- Hawthorne muses on what "Visual Acoustics" leaves out: Shulman's romanticized photographs of single-family houses "gave a boost to sprawl, freeway construction and the pollution that attends both."
- Page turners: "Frank Gehry: The Houses" includes new interviews that "offer surprising and deeper insights."
- "The Architecture of Grosvenor Atterbury" presents a thinker and a scientist interested in "how to make not just better mansions, but better cities...the romance and the science of the man come through."

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Fourteen years on, has the Stirling Prize lost its sparkle? Jay Merrick argues the prize needs to be a catalyst for change, while Hugh Pearman says we should be proud of this popular annual award- BD/Building Design (UK)

Trump It's Not: Christian de Portzamparc tackles Riverside South...a soaring, crystalline complex spanning four city blocks...most notable piece of the plan, the architect insists the most important part is what happens at the street. -- Signe Nielsen/Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects [[images](#), [slide show](#)]- The Architect's Newspaper

Miami 21 could reshape new-home construction: The proposed zoning code...goes beyond retooling commercial corridors...Miami 21's objective...To replace the present code's auto-centric emphasis with a sidewalk-friendly template that fosters walkability, greening and neighborhood cohesion...Not everyone agrees. -- Martinez & Alvarez Architecture; Bernard Zyscovich- Miami Herald

A design that's a teaching tool: Germantown Friends School's new Sustainable Urban Science Center...incorporates the sort of energy-saving strategies we're starting to see all over the place...offers proof that architecture can do it all. That's key because selling environmental design to skeptics...biggest lesson...may be that if you really want to foster a healthier planet, buildings have to be urban as well as green. By Inga Saffron -- SMP Architects [[images](#)]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Economic Stimulus Opportunities for Landscape Architects: ...guide to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) outlines opportunities that landscape architects and other design professionals may find beneficial. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

David vs. Goliath: They're the Davids to the industry's Goliaths. They're the little guys. If the Fosters, Genslers and HOKs are the super-sized meals, they're the small fries - just as delicious, just in shorter supply. They're the firms that go unnoticed until they sneak up and snatch a lucrative contract from the big boys. -- X-Architects; TRACE Design Studios; 3 Square; Draw Link Group- ConstructionWeekOnline (Dubai)

Exclusive Video Interview: Wyly Theatre Co-Designer Joshua Prince-Ramus/REX- KERA, North Texas Public Broadcasting

Architects of good fortune: What's the future of urban areas in Sofia dominated by socialist-era prefabricated housing estates? Are Bulgaria's cities doomed to forever resemble concrete jungles? Sofia Architecture Week...addresses these issues and more...October 30 - November 5- Sofia Echo (Bulgaria)

Call for entries/submissions/nominations deadlines: Performing Arts by Oct. 26; Industrial by Nov. 02; Health Care by Dec 07, 2009- Archtype

Sentient cities may answer back: "Toward the Sentient City" exhibition at the Architectural League of New York explores how our lives might change when we can embed computers in anything and everything..."We have to ask now what happens when the system fails, not after the fact"....It seems the sentient city is here, whether we're ready, or not. [[images](#)]- BBC (UK)

Extraordinary Shelf Life: "Design USA: Contemporary Innovation" featuring the last 10 years of the museum's renowned design award recipients at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum [images, links]- Azure magazine (Canada)

McMansions, be gone: Forward-looking architects team up to make modern home designs affordable... house plans, created by 24 design firms from around the world...are now on view in "Welcome Hometta" at Pinkcomma gallery...They emphasize affordability, sustainability, and style. -- over,under; Project_ ; Studio Terpeluk; Kiel Moe- Boston Globe

Charles Was Right to Pan 1980s Buildings, Chipperfield Says: "I don't think it was completely wrong" ...[he] doesn't mind his profession being "kicked up the backside when "the quality of modern architecture is poor - and certainly in the '80s in this country, it was really poor" ...Is Berlin [Neues Museum] his best work? "I don't imagine I'll do anything as important or as significant as that again"- Bloomberg News

"David Chipperfield - Form Matters" at the Design Museum, London: ...a cerebral blockbuster that relies not on lurid hypergraphics...or exuberantly curved cabinets and forms, but rather the pleasure that comes from wandering through a cityscape...architecture with texture and sobriety, instead of structural gymnastics. [images, links]- Wallpaper*

City Stunts: "Actions: What You Can Do with the City" at the Graham Foundation's Madlener House puts urban residents on notice: engage your community, become amateur planners, designers, and architects. -- Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA); Andrea Sala; Project Projects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Learning Modern": It's easy to take for granted the influence of the Bauhaus in industrial design and architecture, and the exhibition at the Sullivan Galleries of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, invites us to give credit where credit is due...There are gems here to experience. Not all of them have to do with Bauhaus. [images]- ChicagoNow

Parking Outside the Box: ...for all the ugly-red-haired-stepchild car parks of the world...there are also stunning examples of man-and-machine triumph that incorporate both function and aesthetics...celebrated in "House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" at the National Building Museum. -- Calatrava; Louis Kahn; Eric Owen Moss; Stantec (formerly Gordon H. Chong & Partners; Bertrand Goldberg; Nelson Byrd Woltz/William McDonough; Wood + Zapata; Elliott & Associates; Moore Ruble Yudell; etc. [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

What the new Julius Shulman documentary leaves out: "Visual Acoustics" never pauses to consider a pressing, if inconvenient, point: That the very success of Shulman's most famous and reproduced photographs in romanticizing the newly built single-family house also gave a boost to sprawl, freeway construction and the pollution that attends both. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Book review: "Frank Gehry: The Houses" by Mildred Friedman: Taking a look at the star architect's most significant residential buildings from the 1960s to the late 1980s...underscore the organic nature of Gehry's early experimentation with form and materials...New interviews offer surprising and deeper insights. - Los Angeles Times

Book review: "The Architecture of Grosvenor Atterbury" by Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker...he was a thinker, particularly interested in how to make not just better mansions, but better cities..."he was a romantic who was also a scientist." In this book, both the romance and the science of the man come through. [slide show]- New York Times

-- Studio Daniel Libeskind: Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, Canada
-- Alberto Campo Baeza: Olnick Spanu House, Garrison, New York

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